

Application Serial No. 09/047,146 filed March 24, 1998; copending Application Serial No. 09/157,778 filed September 21, 1998; copending Application Serial No. 09/274,265, filed March 22, 1999; International Application Serial No. PCT/US/99/06505 filed March 24, 1999, and published as WIPO WO 99/49411;] Application Serial No. 09/327,756 filed June 7, 1999; and International Application Serial No. PCT/US00/15624 filed June 7, 2000, published as WIPO WO 00/75856 A1; each said application being commonly owned by Assignee, Metrologic Instruments, Inc., of Blackwood, New Jersey, and incorporated herein by reference as if fully set forth herein in its entirety.

On Page 93, please delete the seventh full paragraph as follows:

[Fig. 1V5 is a schematic representation of a presentation-type bar code symbol reading system embodying the PLIIM-based subsystem of Fig. 1V1;]

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS TO INVENTION:

Please cancel Claims 1-⁶⁶⁸~~669~~ and add new Claims ⁶⁶⁹⁻⁶⁸⁹~~670-690~~ as follows:

⁶⁶⁹~~670~~. An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system having a stand-alone form factor, and capable of being connected to the communication medium of a data communication network, said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprising:

a housing;

a first set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from said one or more object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein said object identification data generating source are disposed external to said housing;

a second set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol; and

a data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism operably connected to said first and second data input ports, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking each input object identification data element, with one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, and transporting the combined data elements to a database

subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval.--

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--671. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁶⁹670, which further comprises:

a computing platform including a microprocessor, system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, networking software;

a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which the object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected; and

a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.--

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--672. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁷⁰671, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.--

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--673. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁷¹672, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.--

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--674. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁶⁹670, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.--

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--675. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁷⁴675, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, MRI scanner and a QRA scanner. --

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--676. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁷⁵676, which further comprises:

a visual display panel integrated with said system housing, and interfaced with said computing platform; and

a manually-actuatable keypad integrated with said housing and interfaced with said computing platform.--

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--577. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim 576, wherein said object identity data elements comprises passenger identification data inputs; and wherein said object attribute data comprises passenger attribute data elements and baggage attribute data elements. --

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--578. An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system for connection to the communication medium of a data communication network, said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprising:

a housing;

a computing platform including a microprocessor, system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, networking software;

a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

a first set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from said one or more object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein said object identification data generating source are disposed external to said housing;

a second set of data input port connectors mounted on the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol;

a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which the object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected;

data element queuing, handling, processing and linking software stored on said associated memory architecture, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking and transporting each input object identification data element, and one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to a database subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval; and

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a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.--

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-679. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁷⁷678, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.--

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-680. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁷⁷678, wherein said one or more networking protocols are selected from the group consisting of Ethernet, Firewire, and USB.--

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-681. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁷⁷678, wherein said object identification data generating device is selected from the group consisting of a bar code reader and an RFID reader.--

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-682. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁷⁷678, wherein said object attribute data generating source is selected from the group consisting of an LDIP Subsystem, a PLIIM-based imager, an x-ray scanner, a neutron beam scanner, MRI scanner and a QRA scanner. --

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-683. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁷⁷678, which further comprises:

a visual display panel integrated with said system housing, and interfaced with said computing platform; and

a manually-actuatable keypad integrated with said housing and interfaced with said computing platform.--

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-684. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁷⁷678, wherein said object identity data elements comprises passenger identification data inputs; and wherein said object attribute data comprises passenger attribute data elements and baggage attribute data elements. --

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-- 685. An object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system for connection to the communication medium of a data communication network, said object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system comprising:

a housing;

a first set of programmable data input ports provided through the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object identification data generating sources and capable of receiving object identity data elements from said one or more object identification data generating sources using a networking protocol, wherein said object identification data generating source are disposed external to said housing;

a second set of programmable data input ports provided through the exterior of said housing, for connection to one or more object attribute data generating sources and capable of receiving object attribute data elements from said one or more object attribute data generating sources using said networking protocol; and

data element queuing, handling, processing and linking mechanism, in operable association with said first and second programmable data input ports, for enabling the automatic queuing, handling, processing, linking and transporting each input object identification data element, and one or more object attribute data elements linked thereto, to a database subsystem operably connected to said data communication network for storage and subsequent retrieval.--

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-- 686. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁸⁴685, which further comprises:

a computing platform including a microprocessor, system bus, an associated memory architecture and operating system software, networking software;

a network controller card operably connected to said microprocessor for supporting high-speed data communications using one or more networking protocols;

a network connection port for establishing a network connection between said network controller card and said communication medium to which the object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system is connected; and

a networking hub operably connected to said first and second sets of data input port connectors, said network connection port, and said network controller card, so that all data input port connectors connected through said networking hub can send and receive data packets and support high-speed digital data communications.--

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-- 687. The object identification and attribute information tracking and linking computer system of claim ⁶⁸⁵686, wherein said associated memory architecture comprises a hard-drive, RAM, ROM and cache memory.--